

lives an earnestness of purpose worthy of any man in any age. And even with the coarseness and crudity in their characters is woven some of the sweetness, tenderness, unselfishness and moral beauty that ennoble men and women to-day.

Let us, as we study them from week to week, shun their faults and emulate their virtues and bring them to the fruition in our lives. Let us be as true to our conceptions of duty as they were, and it may be our lives, somewhat like theirs, shall cast an influence down the years that are to come.

### CHARACTER STUDIES

#### ABRAHAM

(a) Parentage, Gen. 11:27. (b) Birthplace, Gen. 11:28. (c) Wife's name, Gen. 12:29. (d) Starts for Canaan, Gen. 12:1-5. (e) Goes to Egypt, Gen. 12:10. (f) Returns to Egypt, Gen. 13:1. What was the cause? Gen. 12:11-20. (g) Separation from Lot, Gen. 13:6. Which selected the best place? (h) Had three wives, Gen. 16:3; 25:1. Does that justify polygamy? (i) Prays for Sodom, Gen. 18:32. (j) Lies about Sarah again, Gen. 20:2. (k) Isaac born, Gen. 21:3. (l) His faith tried, Gen. 22:1, 2. (m) His death, Gen. 25:8.

#### LIFE LESSONS

(a) Always obedient to God's call to duty, Gen. 12:4; 22:3. (b) Faith, Heb. 11:8, 9, 11, 12, 17. (c) Failed in some points. Lied twice about his wife Sarah, and had several wives. (d) Was unselfish with Lot in his choice of lands, Gen. 13:9. (e) Suffered wrong rather than have trouble, I Cor. 6:1-7. (f) True to his sense of right, Jas. 2:23. He must not be judged according to our standards, but by those of his time. (g) God can use the weakest if he but try and obey.

J. L. GILLIN.

### THE NATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

#### J. ALLEN MILLER

The National Ministerial Association held a business meeting at Johnstown, during the time the conference was in session, and elected the usual officers for the ensuing year. A free discussion by the members concerning the work to be undertaken elicited the fact that there was a demand for Bible study work. The Executive committee was asked to arrange for this work.

#### THE WORK OFFERED

The committee has decided upon a course of work in the Old Testament. It will embrace a study of the Minor Prophets. The writer was asked, and has consented, to prepare the necessary outlines for this study. They will be brief and helpful to the earnest student. These outlines will appear in the EVANGELIST under the proper head.

#### TIME REQUIRED

Too much time can not be given to the study of our sacred Scripture. We give all but enough of our time to its study. I mean to its study; the careful, meditative, prayerful study of God's blessed Word in an order-

ly and systematic way and with a definite purpose. Whether we have much or little time it will be far better to use it systematically, regularly, judiciously. So you can do this work if you have a will for the work regardless of the time element. Many waste enough time in which to become masters among men were they to use it.

#### WHO CAN DO THE WORK?

It is for the reader of the English Bible, open to Sunday-school teachers and superintendents, ministers and laymen to pursue.

#### THE MINOR PROPHETS

Did you ever read these most interesting parts of the Old Testament? Did you ever study them carefully? Well I can only assure you that a rich reward awaits the faithful worker. In this field you will find some sublime passages—such as will quicken your life to new and better activities. I have chosen *Joel* as the book with which to begin. Try reading it thro at one sitting. *Will you do this?*

If you desire to pursue this work please send me your name and address upon a postal card. Would you like to begin the study of New Testament Greek? Or would you like to study Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament? You can do so by correspondence. If you are interested in this write to me and I can help you. Address J. A. Miller, Hiram, Ohio.

#### ANOTHER COMFORTER

"I will give you another Comforter, and He shall abide with you forever."

Who in this life of ours does not often need a comforter? But how few among human beings know enough of the heart to be always a comforter! How many with the best intentions hurt instead of healing! There are sorrows on which the most intimate friend does not lay a hand. But the religion of Jesus promises to each one particular soul a Comforter, a Comforter whose knowledge is perfect, who can make no mistake, who can dwell in the soul, never a moment absent, never heedless, never indifferent or forgetful. Bolts and bars and prison walls cannot shut him out—the soul that has received him is nevermore alone. Neither height nor depth, nor things present, nor things to come, can separate that soul from the love of Christ.

There are sometimes in this world dumb souls who suffer, yet cannot tell their grief—they cannot make themselves understood, they shiver and bleed inwardly, but the world goes by, and nobody pities them. Yet the Comforter whom Christ sends can enter such souls, can understand without words—can take the things of Christ and show them unto them, and give them peace. It requires no worldly wisdom, no education, no earthly knowledge, to receive and understand this Comforter. The poor ignorant slave, the pauper, the sick whose brain is enfeebled by disease, can receive Him, can be consoled by Him. He is like sunshine, ever seeking to pierce the darkness, able and willing to enter in the lowliest window and make

all bright. It is His nature to console; it is His nature to seek and to save; for this alone he lives.

We have only to be willing to accept Him, to open the door of our hearts that He may come in and be our Guide unto death.—*Mrs. H. B. Stowe.*

## Church News

#### Holsingerisms

We spent last summer visiting friends and relatives in Bedford, Blair and Cambria counties. We left our Berlin home on May 31st and returned September 19. We attended both the Pennsylvania State Conference at New Enterprise, and National Conference at Johnstown, and enjoyed both meetings. On account of my delicate health I could not take much part in the work, and regret some things I tried to do, especially at National Conference. Hope it may be charged to bodily infirmity.

Not being able to do anything well except visiting, and that being much appreciated by our friends, the trip was prolonged accordingly, and we might very pleasantly have extended the visit to Morrison's Cove two or three months longer without wearing out our welcome. There I was born and I had the pleasure of seeing the identical house in which I first saw daylight, sixty-four years ago. Here my parents and grand parents lived and died and are buried, and I saw their graves and mingled a few tears with the sod under which they are sleeping. Here I spent all my boyhood days, my youth and early manhood, and O, how many of my youthful follies were recalled to memory by meeting an old acquaintance or passing a familiar place. All have been repented of and some very bitterly—and I hope have been forgiven—but it would be so much more pleasant to review one's life if they had never been.

But there are other sources of sadness except that of remorse, one meets on such occasions. Some one has said: "I came to the place of my birth and said, 'The friends of my youth, where are they?' and echo answered, 'Where are they!'" I asked: "What has become of my friend, George —?" "He died a year ago," was my answer. "And David —, where is he?" "He is dead long ago." "And Catharine —?" "Oh, she must be dead twenty years;" and so in many cases the conversation was continued until the heart grew weary of the word "dead."

"Ah, here it looks like home; let's stop; I want to see my old friend —; I used to visit here often." "Yes, but you'll see him no more in this world. The old people are both dead, and farm was sold to strangers." "But the young people?" "Some are dead and the others are scattered abroad."

There was a time when I knew or knew of every prominent family in Morrison's Cove, and had some acquaintance with almost every man, woman and child within a radius of two or three miles of Martinsburg. I taught school at four different points within that cir-